



Saguaro National Park (West)

April Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates the day of the program. Program listings can also be found at www.nps.gov/sagu.

April 6, 13, 20, 27 10:15 a.m. Play Sonoran Desert Bingo! Game: 30 minutes

Learn about the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert while enjoying a rousing version of Bingo! Get five in a row – down, across, or diagonally – and win a non-monetary prize. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 12, 26 10:15 a.m. Mountain Lions: Beyond the Myth Talk: 45 minutes

Envision a puma stalking its prey, then uncover the true nature of this elusive but essential predator. Misunderstood, maligned, and nearly eradicated by settlers, the cougar remains threatened by human encroachment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 7, 14, 21, 28 3:15 p.m. Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool Talk: 30 minutes

Lizards are small denizens of the desert that are a critical component of our desert community. Find out what it means when they do pushups or exhibit other odd behaviors. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 6, 13, 20, 27 3:15 p.m. Kangaroo Rat: Super Survivor Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the remarkable behavioral and physical adaptations these rodents possess that allow them to survive harsh desert environments. Find out how this nocturnal animal escapes predators, evades heat, and endures aridity. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 11, 18, 25 3:15 p.m. Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert: The Roadrunner Talk: 30 minutes

The Greater Roadrunner is a popular and charismatic member of the desert community. Learn about the natural history, behaviors, and other facts about this colorful creature. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 4 3:15 p.m. How Do They Do It? Walk: 15 minutes, 100 yards

Discover how the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert have adapted to the harsh conditions of this unique environment. (This program also is offered in Spanish April 4 at 12:15 p.m.) *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 2, 9, 16 3:15 p.m. Cooking With Prickly Pear Talk: 30 minutes

Learn how you can incorporate prickly pear into your diet. A live cooking demonstration will show you how to prepare and cook prickly pear. Prepare for a sweet treat! *Wheelchair accessible*

April 13, 20, 27 11:15 a.m. Living With Giants Talk: 45 minutes

The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 19, 2:15 p.m. Creepy Crawlers: The Silent Majority Talk: 30 minutes

Learn about some of our most feared and misunderstood arthropods who call this park home. Come discover how essential they are for our desert community and why we shouldn't fear these mostly harmless creatures. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 15, 22, 28, 29 2:15 p.m. The CCC in the Tucson Mountains Talk: 30 minutes

The Civilian Conservation Corps was launched in the midst of The Great Depression as an employment program to take young men off the streets and give them jobs restoring the country's depleted soil and forest resources. Much of this involved building the infrastructures of public facilities in the Tucson area, including many of the stone structures and trails at Saguaro National Park and Tucson Mountain Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 11, 25 2:15 p.m. Javelina: Our Desert Neighbors Talk: 30 minutes

Sometimes referred to as the "desert pig," the javelina is not a pig at all. Learn about this intriguing creature and how it survives in this arid environment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Daytime Walks

April 3, 17 9:45 a.m. Bird Walk 30 minutes plus optional additional 30 minutes, ½ mile

Join us for a 30-minute walk in the sandy wash behind the Visitor Center to see what birds live among the cacti and shrubs. Learn how they find food, water and shelter. Participants interested in more will drive 2 miles to Sus Picnic area with its rocky canyon and hills for another 30-minute walk to see what wrens, hawks and other birds live there. The walk is on sand and dirt roads. No reservations required. All ages are invited.

April 1, 8, 15 9:45 a.m. The Plants Tell All Hike: 1½ hours, ¼ miles

Plants are the foundation of the web of life. Join a park naturalist to learn the secrets of what ties the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert together. Plant survival, insects and spiders, birds and mammals -- nothing is off limits for discussion on this discovery trek through the desert. For this moderate walk, closed-toed shoes, a hat, and water are required.

April 11, 25 10:15 a.m. Adaptations: Recipe for Survival Easy 100-yard walk: 30 minutes

Take a walk in our Cactus Garden to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.

April 11, 25 11:15 a.m. Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards
Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

April 5, 19 10:15 a.m. Sonoran Secrets to Desert Survival Talk & Walk: 60 minutes, 200 yards
Take a short stroll and identify the most common hazards hidden in the desert, uncover survival strategies of native plants and animals, and acquire practical tips to ensure your safety, particularly in warmer temperatures. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 22, 28, 29 11:15 a.m. Spiny, Shady, and COOL! Walk: 30 minutes, 100 yards
Come for a short walk and discover the great variety of cacti that inhabit this unique and fascinating desert.

April 6 2:15 p.m. Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat Talk and Walk: 45 minutes
For all of life, “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts” is true. The Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world.

April 1, 3, 10, 15, 17, 3:15 p.m. A Saguaro Time Capsule Hike: 1½ hours, 1½ miles
From geologic formations to Hohokam petroglyphs, join us as we explore the distinctive signs of change and adaptation that have occurred over time in our park. Join us on this easy 1½ hour, 1½ mile walk in an arroyo as we examine what challenges the park may face in the future.

April 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 28 10:15 a.m. Life on the Edge Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards
Many species perform balancing acts to adapt to seemingly harsh conditions, but will desert plants and animals be able to weather the climate changes? Find out as you stroll in the Cactus Garden. *Wheelchair accessible*

April 14, 22, 29 4:15 p.m. Silhouettes at Sundown Hike: 3 hours, 2 ½ miles
Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes the Southwest’s most famous icon – the giant saguaro. This walk goes up a sandy wash bottom with a few rock outcroppings and returns on a trail just before dusk.
Reservations required; 733-5158

Childrens Programs

April 5, 12, 15, 19, 26 9:00 a.m. Parents & Tots Walk Guided Walk: 2 hours
Bring your infant or toddler on this easy, ranger-guided walk as we explore the sights and sounds of the Sonoran Desert. Toddler backpacks are available for loan if you don’t have your own. . **Reservations required; 733-5158**

Full Moon Programs

April 6 3:15 p.m. Wasson Peak Moonlight Hike: 7 hours, 8 miles roundtrip
This hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy a 360-degree view of the sunset before descending by the light of the moon. The hike is at an easy-to-moderate pace but is considered difficult due to elevation gain and hiking after dark. **Reservations required; 733-5158**

April 7 5:15 p.m. Twilight Glow to Moon Shadows Moonlight Hike: 3 hours, 2 ½ miles roundtrip
This walk bridges sunset into moonlight, letting hikers experience the desert in both the glow of twilight and the light of the waxing moon. The trail ascends a hill with a gentle, packed slope, and then descends a sandy wash. The hike is completed with a return on a dirt road. Ages 10 and older. **Reservations required; 733-5158.**

April 8 4:30 p.m. Sunset Hike 4 hours, 3 ½ miles roundtrip
This hike gains 700 feet with most of the elevation change in switchbacks near the ridgeline, where hikers will watch the sunset before descending under moonlight. **Reservations required; 733-5158**

April 10 7:00 p.m. Moonrise Over The Mountains Patio program: 45 minutes
Popular guitarist and singer-songwriter Mark William and Native American flute player Robert Hval will play music on the patio as visitors watch the full moon rise over the mountains. Bring a folding chair and blankets or coats. *All ages. Wheelchair accessible.* **No reservations necessary.**

Spanish Language Program

April 4 12:15 p.m. ¿Cómo Pueden Sobrevivir? Walk: 15 minutes, 100 yards
(Spanish version of How Do They Do It?) Charla en Español donde discutiremos como las plantas y animales del desierto Sonorense se han adaptado a través de los años para poder sobrevivir y florecer en nuestro único y duro ambiente. *Wheelchair accessible.*